(FILE 'USPAT' ENTERED AT 09:56:29 ON 30 OCT 1997) 2497 S TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR OR TNF L1 22 S L1 (10A) BINDING PROTEIN 12 S L2 AND SOLUBLE

L2 L3

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Patrick W. Gray, Bothell, WA

Martin J. C. Turner, Ann Arbor, MI

Fionula M. Brennan, Hammersmith, United Kingdom

ASSIGNEE: The Mathilda and Terence Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology

, London, England (foreign corp.)

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## ABSTRACT:

A polypeptide is provided which is capable of binding human TNF.alpha. and which has the first three cysteine-rich subdomains, but not the fourth cysteine-rich subdomain, of the extracellular binding domain of a receptor selected from the group consisting of the 55 kD and 75 kD receptors for human TNF.alpha. The ability of the polypeptide to bind TNF.alpha. means that it can be used for treating diseases mediated by TNF.alpha. activity, such as rheumatoid arthritis.